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FRED GALVAN

THE RHODESIAN TALKS

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN EXAMINES SOME ASPECTS OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION.

VOICE: HOPES ARE RISING IN LONDON, WASHINGTON AND THE UNITED NATIONS THAT THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM IS ON THE WAY TO SOLUTION. THOSE HOPES ARE BASED ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK RHODESIAN LEADERS TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE AGREEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED TUESDAY IN JOHANNESBURG BY BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENVOYS FOLLOWING THEIR TALKS WITH BLACK AND WHITE LEADERS. THE DIPLOMATS SAID THEY FOUND RHODESIANS ON BOTH SIDES RECEPTIVE AND ANXIOUS TO FIND A SOLUTION. AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY LONDON ON THE DATE AND SITE OF THE PROJECTED CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

THE AIM OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO SET UP AN INTERIM BI-RACIAL GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA. THE PROJECTED NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO DRAFT A NEW CONSTITUTION GUARANTEEING MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA WITH SAFEGUARDS FOR ITS WHITE MINORITY. A NEW GOVERNMENT UNDER THAT CONSTITUTION WOULD TAKE OFFICE WITHIN TWO YEARS.

THOSE ARE THE BARE INGREDIENTS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH THE INTERESTED PARTIES ARE NOW PREPARING TO PUT INTO EFFECT. A CRUCIAL PHASE OF THOSE PREPARATIONS ARE THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON AMONG SEVERAL BLACK NATIONALIST FACTIONS. IF THE CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA OR ZIMBABWE IS TO SUCCEED, ALL PARTIES AGREE, UNITY AMONG THOSE FACTIONS IS ESSENTIAL. FOR ANY AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE MUST HAVE THE ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT OF THOSE GROUPS IF IT IS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

AN ENCOURAGING SIGN OF AWARENESS OF THIS KEY ASPECT IS THE INTENSE ACTIVITY BY THE BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS AND THEIR PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS-- THE PRESIDENTS OF THE FIVE BLACK

GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE CLOSE NEIGHBORS OF RHODESIA. JOSHUA NKOMO, ONE OF THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS, IS REPORTING TO THOSE PRESIDENTS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITY EFFORTS.

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY ANTHONY CROSLAND, IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND LATER AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, DIVISIONED CREATION OF THE NEW RHODESIAN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS. ONCE THAT IS DONE, MISTER CROSLAND SAID, U.N.- IMPOSED SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA'S PRESENT REGIME SHOULD BE LIFTED -- BUT NOT BEFORE. AS TO THE CONFERENCE SETTING UP THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, MISTER CROSLAND SAID THAT IT WILL BE WIDE OPEN, WITH NO PRE-DETERMINED ISSUES INVOLVED. AS HE PUT IT--" EVERYTHING IS ON THE TABLE."

WHAT IS EVIDENT FROM ALL THIS IS THAT RHODESIA, WHICH FOR ELEVEN YEARS WAS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF CONFLICT EXTENDING FAR BEYOND ITS BORDERS, SOON MAY PROVIDE IMPETUS TO SOLUTIONS FOR EQUALLY DISTURBING PROBLEMS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA-NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. FOR IF BLACK AND WHITE RHODESIAN LEADERS CAN NEGOTIATE A JUST AND LASTING SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY RULE WITH GUARANTEES FOR MINORITY RIGHTS, IT WOULD HELP REMOVE MUCH OF THE SUSPICIONS THAT HAVE SURROUNDED RELATIONS BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD FOR ALL TOO MANY YEARS.

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